scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT).

(c) Since migration from villages to cities depend on a number of factors such as prosperity-pull, prosperity-push and poverty-push and there have been no studies to evaluate the impacts of rural development programmes and IDSMT scheme on migration, it is not possible to comment as to what extent these measures have proved effective to check migration although as development programmes, they are known to have beneficial impacts on the villages and towns covered by them.

Promotion of low-cost housing

1477. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any need to promote low-cost housing in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to popularise and promote low-cost housing in every state; and

(c) the details of the funds earmarked for the purpose for the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT & MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) In order to provide affordable shelter, the National Housing Policy seeks to promote use of appropriate and energy saving building materials and cost effective construction technologies.

(b) Various research & development institutions are engaged in developing many innovative options leading to cost reduction with durability. With a view to applying the results of research at the field level, Government has established a National Network of Building Centres through HUDCO. These Centres are provided with Central Government subsidy and HUDCO loans. Some of the well performing Centres are also provided with KfW grant for purchase of machinery and equipment.

The Government also set up the Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council in 1990 with a view to facilitate the transfer of proven cost-effective technologies from lab to land and promotion of waste-based building materials and wood substitutes. The Council is engaged in indentifying and bridging the gaps in large scale commercial exploitation of such proven cost effective technologies and is making efforts to strngthen the research-market iink by taking various promotional measures.

With a view to inducing the enterprenuers for manufacturing cost-effective building materials, the Central Government has given various excise and customs duty concessions for production of materials by utilising various industrial and agricultural wastes.

(c) The Ninth Five Year Plan has not been finalised so far.

Code of conduct for dealing with letters of MPs by GDA

1478. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a Code of Conduct in the Central Ministries for dealing with the letters of Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, whether this Code is also applicable to and followed by Ghaziabad Development Authority;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT & MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.